



June 6, 2018

Dear Senator Corker:

Trade is an essential part of the U.S. economy. It leads to economic growth, job creation, higher wages, more consumer choice, and more affordable prices. Trade lifts people out of poverty and improves lives.

By contrast, trade barriers like tariffs harm workers, consumers, and companies. Thus, as staunch advocates for U.S. economic prosperity and job creation, we are deeply concerned about recently implemented or announced tariffs on imported goods. These developments were quickly followed by announcements from our trade partners, including some of America's closest allies, of retaliatory tariffs.

Trade barriers make us poorer. Tariffs are a tax on American consumers, workers and businesses and undermine economic growth. They inflict the most pain on those who can afford it the least, by making everyday goods more expensive. They raise costs for U.S. exports which rely on imports in production, which makes them less competitive. And, of course, there are the costs from retaliatory tariffs imposed by our trade partners.

Because there is so much at stake in our trade policies, it is vital for Congress to play a robust role to closely scrutinize new tariffs. Your legislation would help ensure an appropriate balance between the legislative and executive branches when considering new trade barriers.

Specifically, the legislation would ensure that any new trade barriers, such as tariffs, under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 are subject to an expedited up-or-down vote by Congress before they can take effect. It would also give Congress an opportunity to weigh in on any tariffs imposed over the last two years. We believe this is a common-sense approach to ensure a healthy balance between branches of the federal government, by reverting to Congress some of the authority it previously delegated to the executive branch.

Trade between countries is voluntary and mutually beneficial to both parties. It is a win-win. Trade is vitally important for preserving – and improving – the standard of living for all Americans.

We strongly support your efforts and encourage all Senators to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner  
Chief Government Affairs Officer  
Americans for Prosperity

Nathan Nascimento  
Executive Vice President  
Freedom Partners

David Velazquez  
Executive Director  
The LIBRE Initiative

Cc  
All U.S. Senators

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Americans for Prosperity is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization which educates, recruits and mobilizes citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. Grassroots activists share a common vision for an America where truly free markets allow for a free and prosperous people and they work to educate friends, neighbors, and public officials on the issues shaping the American economy and building a culture of freedom.

Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, non-partisan, chamber of commerce, representing a diverse group of local leaders, dedicated citizens and successful entrepreneurs, many of whom have achieved the American Dream from very modest beginnings. All supporters share a deep commitment to America, promoting free enterprise, effective fiscal, monetary and tax policies, efficient and effective policies that promote and protect hardworking taxpayers, and genuine accountability in government.

The LIBRE Initiative is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization that advances the principles and values of a free and open society to empower the U.S. Hispanic community so it can thrive and contribute to a more prosperous America. LIBRE is dedicated to informing the U.S. Hispanic community about the benefits of a constitutionally limited government, property rights, rule of law, sound money supply and free enterprise through a variety of community events, research and policy initiatives that protect our free and open society.